



HARRIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 26, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.

Agenda

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1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Members of the public are invited to comment on any items not on the agenda (five minutes per person time limit, please). Comments relating to specific items on the agenda should be deferred until that point in the meeting.

3. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

Pennsylvania Act 65 requires the posting of agendas on the Township website 24 hours before a meeting and only allows items to be added to an agenda after a vote of the Board of Supervisors.

If the Board has items they wish to add to the agenda, this would be the time to discuss that.

4. BUDGET REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Members of the public have been invited to make their formal budget requests to the Board. In 2026, the Township funded the following:

- \$500 to 4th Fest
- \$4,750 to the Boalsburg Village Historical Society for Memorial Day/Ambulance (\$3,750) and Hometown Christmas (\$1,000).
- \$250 to the CCATO Scholarship Fund
- \$200 to the Get Outdoors Day event (billed twice)
- \$1,478 to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission
- \$2,000 to Keystone Water Resources

The Township also funded 25 percent of the Penn State Campus Weather programing on C-Net.

We have received the following funding requests, which should be discussed by the Board for the 2027 budget:

- \$1,000 to CentreSafe

Written or verbal requests have not been received for these items but the Board has approved funding in previous years:

- \$250 to CCATO Scholarship Fund
- \$100 to Get Outdoors Day Event
- \$500 to 4th Fest
- \$4,750 to the Boalsburg Village Historical Society for Memorial Day and Hometown Christmas
- 25 percent of the Penn State Campus Weather programing on C-Net.
- \$2,000 to Keystone Water Resources

The 2027 budget includes \$11,567 to the Boalsburg Heritage Museum (this represents the .05 mills annual contribution the Board approved in 2013).

Recommendation: Discussion item.

5. 2027-2031 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

Staff will review the 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program with the Board. The Capital Improvement Program will be adopted formally by resolution at the Board's November 9, 2026 meeting.

Recommendation: Discussion item.

6. 2027 BUDGET DISCUSSION:

The Board should discuss the projected fund balance and the recommendations outlined in the budget transmittal memo. Staff will provide information on our revenue and expenditures trends, and on local tax rates during the meeting.

The Board should also discuss the following items:

- **Tax Millage** – Staff is not recommending any changes to tax millages this year. The three-year sunset provision for capital equipment (0.2 mill) and special projects (0.3 mill) millages expires this year. Staff recommend that the Board consider removing the sunset provision, as a tax rate can be modified any year.
- **Personnel** – Staff is proposing a 3.5% COLA and a merit pool equal to 1.5% of all wages. The COLA is based on the 12-month consumer price index from June. The Board had previously suggested that the COLA be consistent with the COLA for Social Security, which will be 3.6% in 2027.

The proposed budget also includes funding to hire a part-time building and grounds maintenance laborer and a part-time management analyst.

- **Staff Benefits** – There are no proposed benefit changes in the draft 2027 budget.

- Health Insurance – Health insurance premiums will increase 9.9% in 2027. No changes are being proposed to deductibles or copays. Staff will be investigating other health insurance options in 2027 in advance of the 2028 budget.
- **Maintenance** – The 2027 maintenance budget is similar to the 2026 budget in terms of projected costs. The Township anticipates receiving a \$250,000 grant to purchase a hydradig wheeled excavator. The remaining costs for this equipment will come from the capital equipment fund. Grant money will be sought to reimburse the remaining hydradig costs in a subsequent grant round. Utilizing the capital equipment fund, the Township plans to purchase a snowblower attachment for the skid steer and a boom mower attachment.
- **Additional Items** – The Board should discuss any additional items in the 2027 Budget as needed.

The budget will be placed on the November 9th agenda for tentative adoption. We will then advertise the budget for public inspection and place it on the December 14th agenda for formal adoption.

Recommendation: Discussion item.

7. POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT WITH THE STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief Joseph Merrill recently contacted the Township about potential changes to the police contract between the Township and the Borough. Chief Merrill is proposing that there be a change to the way that billing is conducted. Any potential changes, if agreed to, would impact Harris Township and College Township.

Currently, the Township pays for a set amount of police service each year, which is currently based on 76 hours per week. After the year's end, the Borough reconciles the actual costs of providing police services for the prior year. This will result in either a refund or a supplemental bill, based upon actual usage. The supplemental bill can be based upon a premium hourly rate, which is higher than the regular rate.

Chief Merrill is proposing that the Borough continue tracking service hours but discontinue the reconciliation process. This would eliminate the potential for additional charges or refunds to the municipalities. It would also simplify the process for Borough Staff.

The Chief noted that the agreement could also include a threshold for actual hours spent. For example, if the police hours exceeded or fell short by a margin of 10% of budgeted time, those costs could either be charged or reimbursed based on approved the hourly rate.

The Board should discuss the proposal so that feedback can be provided to the Borough.

Recommendation: Discussion Item.

8. CRPR DRAFT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT:

At their August 26th meeting, the Parks and Recreation Governance Special Committee forwarded the draft Memorandum of Understanding for Parks Operation and Maintenance to the municipalities for comment. Comments are due November 6th. A copy of the agreement was also provided to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for their review.

Recommendation: Discussion Item.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Our next budget meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 7:00 PM. This meeting may be cancelled if there are no outstanding budget items.